

THE SOCIALIST PARTY of GREAT BRITAIN

Report of the Proceedings of the 71st Annual Conference
held at:

Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday,
28th, 29th and 30th March, 1975

<u>Attendances at Conference</u>		<u>Delegates present</u>	<u>Branches represented</u>
<u>Friday</u>	morning:	23	13
	afternoon	30	14
	Not represented, Manchester		
<u>Saturday</u>	afternoon	28	13
	Not represented, Manchester, Edinburgh		
<u>Sunday</u>	morning	21	10
	Not represented, Bolton, S.W. London, West London, Manchester		
	afternoon	27	11
	Not represented, Birmingham, Manchester, West London.		

Financial Statement

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Collections	£ 85-29	Hall Hire	£183-24
Literature Sales	25-94	Canteen Exs.	37-16
Book Sales	32-65		
Canteen receipts	62-62		
			£220-40
			206-50
	206-50	Deficit	£13-90

Friday:

Chairman: Comrade Doreen Davies: Vice-Chairman Comrade T.D'Arcy. Agreed to elect on the motion of May & Weidberg.

Tellers: It was agreed that the Standing Orders Cttee. carry out this function.

Proceedings commenced at 11.15 a.m.

Rule 2 (Bolton Bch): "On line one delete '25p' and replace with '50p'". Lost 5-24
Amend. Redbridge: "Delete '50p' and substitute '30p'" Lost 5-22

Rule 3 Camden: "That Rule 3 be amended by deleting the whole of the last sentence (commencing 'a member leaving Gt. Britain....') and substituting with the sentence 'A member taking up residence abroad shall automatically cease to be a member of the Party'". Lost 16-17
Amend. Glasgow: "Delete all after 'automatically' and replace with the words 'become a member of Central Branch'". Lost 17-19

As indicated by the voting figures, opinions were almost evenly balanced, which leaves the Rules unchanged. Delegates in favour of Camden's suggestion felt that the Party had no control over members leaving Britain and that such members would not derive any benefit from continued membership. The S.P.C.B. could act as a political party only within the political and geographical borders of this country. Any socialist taking up residence in another country would naturally propagate socialist ideas, try to set up a Socialist group and work towards gaining power of government in that country. Those supporting Glasgow stated that continued membership of the Party meant moral support and in any case, the Party aimed at international change and could not take the narrow view presented by Camdeb. On the question of control, they thought this was no greater a problem than in the case of distant Branches, groups or individual members. The Party only heard of divergent views after they had been printed. Transfer to a Special Register of C.B. would ensure that members abroad would be fully informed as to what was going on in the Party and they would not feel cut off.

C.B. Secretary said that C.B. was already far too unwieldy and efforts should be made to reduce the size of this Branch. In any case, there were legal and constitutional aspects which could only be considered on a national basis. He also thought that associate or second class membership would naturally help with introducing leaflets in the language of the country, or with finance where there was reasonable prospect of socialist activity.

Rule 5 Camden. "That Rule 5 be addended by adding at the end the following 'or publish or distribute political literature other than that approved by the Party'".

Amend. Glasgow: "That Camden's addendum be amended to read 'or publish political literature, other than that approved by the Party, or otherwise assist any other political party'". Carried 20-14
 as Sub Res. Carried 26-10

Rule 10 Westminster: "On line 1, between the words 'Branches' and the word 'shall', insert the words 'Groups or members'". Carried 24-13

Addend. Haringey: "Add after the word 'members' the words 'shall neither sell nor distribute any literature in the name of the Party which has not been approved by the E.C, excepting handbills advertising meetings'". Lost 14-22

Amend. S.W. London: "Delete the word 'Groups'". Lost 13-24

It was agreed that Item for Discussion (b) Glasgow - "Do we need to change Rule 10 with a view to allowing Branches and Groups their own literature under licence from the E.C" be discussed at the same time as the suggested alterations to Rule 10. With few exceptions, delegates thought that the position of Groups had to be regularised. At present it was not clear what a Group was. Did it consist of members only who were too few to form a viable Branch, was it a nucleus of members with some sympathisers, one member and sympathisers, or any other combination? At present Groups were advertised in the "S.S". They sometimes held specially arranged propaganda meetings; some had published literature without permission from the Party; others had sought and obtained E.C. permission to publish leaflets. The status of Groups would have to be settled and opportunity for further discussion of this subject would be given later on.

Rule 15. Camden "On line 7 delete the words 'or deposit'"

Lost 9-28

Those in favour of the alteration to Rule 15 stated that a basic principle was at stake. The Party should be seen to have clean hands and not benefit from the surplus value wrung from members of the working class. The money at our disposal should be spent on socialist propaganda of all possible kinds. If returns on the monies in our account were considered important the deposit account was not really a good investment. If this attitude were to be carried to its logical conclusion we would have to play the Market. However, the majority of delegates said that it was the duty of the Party to preserve its assets, especially in this inflationary period and that by keeping our total assets in a current account we would not prevent exploitation of some members of the working class, we would merely allow the Bank to retain the interest and use it in anti-working class activities. It was more or less accidental that at the present time British Banks did not pay interest on current accounts as they did in some other countries. No principle was involved.

Afternoon Re-commenced at 2.45 p.m.

Brief address by Comrade L. Fenton, fraternal delegate from the W.S.P. U.S. Comrade Fenton, after expressing his pleasure at being able to join us for Conference, mentioned that the W.S.P. had issued a collection of radio talks in pamphlet form called "Perspectives" in celebration of their 300th issue of the "Western Socialist". He urged the Party to order at least 1,000 copies. He then spoke briefly about the Newsletter sent out by our Canadian comrade Serge Huard. He thought that this comrade's efforts to introduce socialist ideas to organisations and individuals had opened new doors to the international movement and that his techniques were well worth emulating.

Fraternal Greetings: were received from the W.S.P. of New Zealand, our International Secretary, Comrade Russell, and Comrade Alec Hart from S.Africa. Also from Cdes. Lake and Kersley (who mentioned that this was the first Conference he had missed since 1910). It was agreed to return the greetings to all those concerned.

E.C. Report to Conference: No contributions were made on any items up to the C.O's Report.

It was agreed to combine the discussion of the Report with Items for Discussion under (c) - (Swansea, Westminster and Lewisham).

Once again the importance of regularising the standing of Groups was stressed. Whilst realising that some Groups evolved into Branches in their own good time, other groups, although numerically strong enough, wished to remain Groups; sometimes because of their far-flung membership, sometimes because of irregular attendances, and their somewhat loose ties with the Party would have to be tightened.

Floor Resolution: Gluck & Critchfield (Westminster): "That this Conference recommends that a Draft Constitution and Standing Orders for Groups be drawn up by the E.C. for consideration by the Party".
Addend. Holliday (Haringey) Marshall (Redbridge): and that any proposed Constitution and Standing Orders should be referred to the next Delegate Meeting for their consideration"

Carried 20-8

Sub-Res. Carried 20-9

Some C.B. members who belong to Groups such as the Oxford and Woking Groups, stated that they thought it unwise to adopt too restrictive a policy towards Groups

Electoral Activity: It was agreed to discuss Resolutions on this subject together with their addenda and amendments 3 (a), (b) and (c).

3a. Resolution: S.W.London: "That this Conference favours the setting up of a fund to enable the Party to contact the required 50 seats at the next General Election in order to qualify for time on the TV channels". Lost 4-34

3b. Resolution: S.W.London: "That this Conference favours contesting By-Elections, especially in marginal Constituencies".
Addend. Westminster: "Add at the end 'Where a worthwhile campaign can be organised'".

Carried 32-6

as sub-Res. Carried

S.W. London expressed the view that their resolution which aimed at putting 50 candidates into the field at elections would give us radio and TV time when people were more disposed to take an interest in political matters and we would reach people who were usually not accessible to us. The overwhelming majority of delegates thought that the Party's case could not successfully be put over in so limited a time, that the expense involved would buy us commercial time if and when we wanted it, and that since we were not able to support more than a few Constituencies, we would have to nominate ghost candidates, which was something that could only bring us into disrepute.

- 30 Resolution (Haringey): "This Conference regrets that the E.C. did not take adequate steps to ensure that the Party could contest at least one seat in the General Election of 1974 (February) as instructed by 1972 Conference".

Lost 11-21

Amend. Westminster: "On line 1, between the word 'not' and the word 'take', insert the words 'have time to'".

Lost 16-16

Addend. Westminster: "Add at the end.....'but further regrets that, when the Party was able to contest Hampstead in October 1974, Haringey Branch did not take any part in the campaign despite a specific request from Westminster Bch. that they come and help in the work'".

Lost 12-20

It was the opinion of the majority that little could be gained by recriminations, and the resolutions, amendments and addenda could only be justified if they would lead the Party to a more forward-looking attitude by preparing Constituencies likely to be contested, all the year round.

- 1c. Resolution (Bolton): "This Branch instructs the E.C. to appoint a full-time Head Office Assistant".

Lost 10-26

Amend. Swansea: "Delete the word 'appoint' and replace with the words 'consider the appointment of'".

Lost 8-26

Amend. Mid. Herbs: "Delete the words 'Head Office Assistant' and replace with the words 'Organiser, as and when possible'".

Lost 12-21

Whilst Bolton Branch felt very keenly about the necessity of appointing an assistant full time, most other delegates thought that the size of the Party did not warrant it, and that part of the strength of the Party lay in the fact that all work was carried out by people who wanted to do the work and enjoyed it.

Saturday afternoon - Commenced at 2 p.m.

- 1 (d). Resolution (Bolton): "This Conference instructs the E.C. to acquire a printing press".

Amend. S.W. London: "Delete all after the word 'E.C' and replace with the words 'to set up a committee to investigate the viability of acquiring a printing press'".

Carried 20-15

Add. Westminster: "Add 'subject to a favourable report being received by the Printing Investigation Committee'".

Carried 21-15

as sub-Res. Carried 22-16

There was considerable support for the idea of acquiring a modern printing press to enable the Party to print its own leaflets etc; in fact, some delegates favoured the printing of the "S.S" at Head Office. It was pointed out that the Party would then be independent, things could be turned out at short notice and at a considerable saving. Other delegates stressed that this required people who worked capably, reliably and consistently. Could Head Office provide a suitable site for the installation, was there sufficient space to store the acquired quantities of paper which we would have to buy at a higher price than the printer, and was it wise to use the time and energy of comrades who would otherwise carry out different kinds of socialist propaganda work. We could afford to pay for the printing of our literature and should use our physical and mental resources for the work which only we could carry out. Conference was informed that the E.C. had already set up a Printing Investigation Committee.

- 1 (g) Resolution: Mid.Herts: "That the term 'immediate requirements in the text of the Party Poll resolution of 1967 with reference to the deposit account shall be considered to be approx. 1/10th of the preceding year's expenditure". Carried 21-17

There were a number of impassioned statements from some delegates and E.C. members who felt that the deposit account was a violation of the Party's principles and that the pre-occupation with finance by some Party members was very worrying. However, those in favour of a deposit account and those accepting the majority decision of the Party Poll considered Mid.Herts' proposition sensible. The Auditor, who was present, endorsed this view.

- 1(f) Resolution: Camden: "That in the opinion of this Conference the Questioning of applicants for membership of Central Branch by means of a printed questionnaire shall be regarded as a last resort and shall be used only where it is impracticable for the applicants to visit or be visited by members to interview them".
Addend. Westminster: "Add at the end the words 'and that the C.B. Examination Committee be informed accordingly'". Carried 27-12
 as sub-Res. Carried 31-8

Whilst some delegates expressed the view that neither a personal interview nor the most carefully designed questionnaire could guarantee the understanding of the socialist case, it was generally agreed that personal contact was preferable. The discussion then led to the problems and difficulties of Central Branch in general. More than a quarter of the membership belonged to Central Branch. The burden was a very great one for the C.B. Secretary. His members were provided with all Party information without having to stir out of the house. They were being kept in constant touch and this took a disproportionate amount of time, energy and funds.

Whilst there were some Party members who lived at great distances from their nearest Branch, group or isolated members, there were a number who simply preferred to belong to Central Branch, and who were not aware of the fact that they were missing out on comradeship and collective ventures.

Floor Resolution (Barltrop & Blomeley, Camden: "That the E.C. be asked to make a special approach to C.B. members, urging them in the interest of the organisation generally, to join the nearest Branch, and pointing out the advantages of this to themselves". Carried 25-0

In the course of this discussion the question of the Questionnaire came up again. The consensus of opinion was not in agreement with the E.C.'s decision to remove the questions relating to 'Race' and 'Trade Unions'. Delegates found the statements - that these topics were covered by other questions and the D.of P. unacceptable. They also did not agree with the view that the Questionnaire should not be too long and that vague answers could be taken up in further contact. In fact, some delegates wanted to have such questions as 'Nationalism' and 'democratic procedure' included. They thought the Questionnaire should be as comprehensive as possible.

Floor Resolution (Vannie & Briel, Glasgow): "This Conference recommends the E.C. to re-instate the questions on 'Race' and 'Trade Unions' to the Questionnaire for applicants to Central Branch". Carried 29-4 nil

Floor Resolution (D'Arcy & Coleman): Westminster: "That this Conference recommends that a re-appraisal of the Questionnaire for application to the Party be undertaken by the E.C".
Addend. Donnelly & McEwen, Glasgow: "and that their recommendations be considered by Conference, 1967".

Carried 23-6
 as sub-Res: Carried 26-4

Branch Reports of their activities in 1974:

S.W.London Branch has held successful meetings at Earls Court with average sales of 2 doz. "S.S". Their monthly indoor meetings at H.O. were attended by a fair number of sympathisers. They assisted in the Anniversary Exhibition and in the Hampstead Election campaign. Their active membership shows an increase.

Edinburgh has held Saturday meetings in Dundee notwithstanding incident, and Sunday meetings in Edinburgh. The Dundee meetings were improving but the Edinburgh meetings had become disappointing; the Branch was hoping for an improvement in the Spring and Summer. Their indoor activities had been hampered by fines for fly-posting. The Branch had had front-page mention in the Dundee local paper for their consistent opposition to the nationalism of the S.N.P. They sold 30 doz. "S.S" per month in the summer and 12 to 14 doz. in the winter.

Glasgow Branch reported that their outdoor activities had been curtailed by bad weather. Audiences for indoor meetings had been hard to get and so they had only held one meeting since May Day. But they were now running an excellently attended series of classes on politics, the M.C. of H. and economics. Non-members were also turning up regularly. They had sent speakers to Dundee, Liverpool, Sunderland and Edinburgh. They would shortly send a speaker to Bolton. Literature sold during 1974 amounted to £217-60.

Mid.Herts. held regular meetings at Stevenage and Welwyn Garden City alternately four times a month. They had interested visitors but no new members. Literature sales at Stevenage Town Centre averaged 6 to 7 doz. "S.S". They also held sales drives at Letchworth and Stevenage. They hoped to hold a sales drive during 'Contact' with the help of the Central Organiser.

Haringey Branch reported a decrease in their activities in 1974 due to one of their members going abroad. They had continued their Saturday evening meetings in Central London and at Kings Cross. They had had quite good literature sales through newsagents, insisting on prominent display of the "S.S".

Westminster reported a very good year. Collections and donations amounted to £211. They also raised £400 towards the Hampstead Election. Literature sales amounted to £222 during the summer.

Birmingham have managed to regain permission to hold meetings in their traditional meeting-place, i.e. the Bull Ring, which had been barred to political meetings by the City Council for some time. They were quite active in 1974, but owing to lack of speakers only three meetings were held so far. Four of their members are going to take the speakers' test and they are hoping to increase the number of meetings and the sale of the "S.S", which amounted to 3 doz. during the winter months.

Sunday Commenced at 11.20 a.m.

Conference dealt with the report from the Pamphlets Committee.

Irish Question:

Resolution, Haringey Branch: "This Conference instructs the E.C. to publish a pamphlet on the Irish question, the draft of which was approved for publication by the 70th E.C. at its 52nd meeting on 18th December, 1973".

Lost 6 - 24

Haringey stated that our literature did not deal adequately with this issue which continued to produce killers and victims. We could not stand aside from a problem which exercised the minds and emotions of so many people. Delegates were reminded by an E.C. member that Conference 1974 had instructed the E.C. to give priority to "Questions of the Day" and "Principles & Policy". The Party's stock of pamphlets was low and we had to concentrate on pamphlets of a more general nature. In reply to the statement that the Party was no longer forced to take into account financial restrictions, some delegates mentioned

Floor Resolution, Vallar & Donnelly (Glasgow): "This Conference recommends that all Branch resolutions be reproduced in full in E.C. Minutes, but that a Branch Secretary's letter may be published in the form of a precis in E.C. Minutes. Branch resolutions shall be supported by the votes for and against and the number of Branch members present".

Carried 15 - 9

After adjournment for lunch proceedings recommenced at 2.30 p.m.

The Auditors' report was then before Conference. There were no queries.

Note (A) from Standing Orders Committee, on page 1 of Final Agenda: This note dealt with Items (k) 1. and 2. which the Committee had withdrawn from the Final Agenda on instructions from the E.C. The E.C. had circulated Branches stating the events that led up to the withdrawal of the items. There was very little discussion.

Floor Resolution, Ambridge (Swansea) & McNeeney (Mid.Herts): "That this Conference is of the opinion that the E.C. has no power to withdraw any items submitted by a Branch and placed on the Preliminary Agenda and in fact have exceeded their authority in instructing the Standing Orders Committee to withdraw the Mid.Herts. Resolution".

Carried 25 - 0

3(h) Resolution (Haringey Branch): "That the 1974 E.C. was acting incorrectly by taking certain action on the basis of a letter critical of a Branch and some of its members prior to hearing a report on the matter from the Branch and its members".

E.C. members in the hall expressed the view that the circumstances leading up to the complaint by the Branch were such that they were justified in taking the action they did. An applicant for membership had attended four meetings of Haringey Branch, wishing to join the Party, but he had been ignored by the Branch. He had written to the E.C. informing them of his intentions, asking for their advice. The E.C. advised him to apply to another Branch, which he had now done.

Resolution Lost 6 - 21

3 (i) Resolution (Haringey): "This Conference censures the 71st E.C. for appointing a sub-committee at its 27th Meeting of 2nd July, 1974, without calling for nominations from Branches, as required by the Terms of Rule 17".
Amend. (Westminster): "Amend to read 'This Conference endorses the 71st E.C.'s action in appointing an ad hoc committee' and delete all after '2nd July, 1974'".

Carried 20-11.

as sub-Res. Carried 20-11

3(j) Resolution (Haringey): "This Conference censures the 71st E.C. for appointing a sub-committee at its 31st Meeting of 30th July 1974 without calling for nominations from Branches as is required by the terms of Rule 17".
Amend. (Westminster): "amend to read 'This Conference endorses the 71st E.C.'s action in appointing an ad hoc committee'; and delete all after '30th July 1974'".

Carried 20-11.

as sub-Res. Carried 20-12

There was little discussion after an E.C. member drew Haringey's attention to the difference between an ad hoc committee and a sub-Committee. Sometimes the E.C. had to deal with an item which required a considerable amount of time and study. The E.C. would then appoint an ad hoc committee for this particular job. The ad hoc committee would report back to the E.C. when its task was completed, and the committee was dissolved. Its job was specific and temporary.

3(k) Resolution (S.W.London): "That this Conference deplores the action of three Haringey members in setting up a group of which the Party knew nothing, and to which Branch funds were transferred without consulting the Branch as a whole".

Addend. (Westminster): "Add 'but notes that the funds have been returned to the Branch and the group disbanded'".

Addend. (Haringey): "Add 'notwithstanding that that Haringey Branch at a normal meeting of the Branch, open to the public, formally resolved on this transfer of funds;

that this was recorded in the Branch minutes;

that prima facie evidence existed that it was possible for Branch funds to have been used in support of non-traditional Party ideas;

that the group formed considered itself as a group of the Party, having the same D. of P;

that its members were all members of the Party and throughout were under Party rule and legal obligations, neither of which were breached; and

that subsequent investigation by the Central Organiser confirmed that there were no anti-Party motives involved". Lost 4 - 12

Westminster Addend.

as sub-Res.

Carried 17-12

Carried 22-7

There was very limited discussion. Most delegates considered the matter closed and did not wish to indulge in recriminations.

- 4(a) Resolution (Haringey): "This Conference repudiates the statement on p.122 of the July 1974 Socialist Standard that the Socialist Party of Great Britain "takes no part in supporting the interests of one section of workers against one set of employers" and re-affirms the traditional Party position, viz. that the Socialist Party supports workers who struggle democratically for better conditions and/or higher wages from their employers whether private or State".
- Amend. (Westminster): "On line one delete the word 'repudiates' and replace with 'endorses'. Delete all after the word 'employers' on line five and substitute with 'We represent the political interests of the working class as a whole. This Conference agrees with the contents of the article "A Pleading Capitalist" taken in its entirety".
- Amend. (Camden): "This Conference notes that the Haringey resolution takes an isolated passage from the article in the July 1974 "S.S" and ignores accompanying passages, including the following:
1. "We represent the political interests of the working class as a whole".
 2. "We are opposed to capitalism as a whole, high profits or low profits, high wages or low wages".
 3. "Unfortunately it is the belief of many individual workers that the most positive step they can take in life is to struggle constantly for higher wages. It is no end in itself, and while workers persist solely in such a struggle and ignore Socialist ideas they help to perpetuate capitalism".
- This Conference affirms that this has always been the Party's position".
- Carried 19-12
Westminster Addend. Carried 18-13
as sub-Res. Carried 18-13

Delegates in favour of the two amendments stated that the Party had at no time held the view that every industrial action automatically deserved our support. Each case had to be dealt with on its merits, i.e. whether it served the interests of the working class as a whole. Haringey seemed unable to see the difference between the struggle in the economic field and the one in the political field. The struggle in the economic field was one which the workers would by necessity pursue without our urging and advice. Our task was to point out to them that this very limited struggle could only give them limited benefits but not change their basic position in society. And without fighting to change this position by political action they were condemned to continue their fight for higher wages and better conditions ad infinitum. Only the political struggle will get control of the Armed Forces that will get power for Socialism. Supporters of the Haringey motion stated that they made no distinction between the industrial strike and the political struggle. One was the intensification of the other. We should support workers when they come out on strike. Action in the industrial field helped workers to recognise their class position and without it they would never gain socialist consciousness.

In reply it was pointed out that there was no proof whatsoever that strikes had produced socialists. Some delegates expressed the view that trade unions were now completely undemocratic and mostly hand in glove with the Government.

Trade Union Pamphlet. In the course of the above discussion the question of a Trade Union pamphlet was raised. A member of the Pamphlets Committee said that this pamphlet would be given priority once our immediate commitments had been met.

Floor Resolution, Vallar & Donnelly (Glasgow): "This Conference recommends that all Branch resolutions be reproduced in full in E.C. Minutes, but that a Branch Secretary's letter may be published in the form of a precis in E.C. Minutes. Branch resolutions shall be supported by the votes for and against and the number of Branch members present".

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as sub-Res.

Carried 18-13

Delegates in favour of the two amendments stated that the Party had at no time held the view that every industrial action automatically deserved our support. Each case had to be dealt with on its merits, i.e. whether it served the interests of the working class as a whole. Haringey seemed unable to see the difference between the struggle in the economic field and the one in the political field. The struggle in the economic field was one which the workers would by necessity pursue without our urging and advice. Our task was to point out to them that this very limited struggle could only give them limited benefits but not change their basic position in society. And without fighting to change this position by political action they were condemned to continue their fight for higher wages and better conditions ad infinitum. Only the political struggle will get control of the Armed Forces that will get power for Socialism. Supporters of the Haringey motion stated that they made no distinction between the industrial strike and the political struggle. One was the intensification of the other. We should support workers when they come out on strike. Action in the industrial field helped workers to recognise their class position and without it they would never gain socialist consciousness.

In reply it was pointed out that there was no proof whatsoever that strikes had produced socialists. Some delegates expressed the view that trade unions were now completely undemocratic and mostly hand in glove with the Government.

Trade Union Pamphlet. In the course of the above discussion the question of a Trade Union pamphlet was raised. A member of the Pamphlets Committee said that this pamphlet would be given priority once our immediate commitments had been met.

Preliminary Report - Annual Conference, 1975:

Amendments to Rule and Resolutions carried:

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AMENDMENTS TO RULE:

RULE 5 "That Rule 5 be amended by adding at the end the following.
'or publish political literature other than that
approved by the Party, or otherwise assist any other
Political Party'". Carried 26-10 ✓

RULE 10 "Branches, Groups or members shall neither sell nor
distribute any literature which has not been approved by
the Executive Committee excepting handbills advertising
meetings". Carried 24-13 ✓

RESOLUTIONS INSTRUCTED:

"This Conference instructs the Executive Committee to
set up a committee to investigate the viability of
acquiring a printing press subject to a favourable report
being received from the Printing Investigation Committee".
Carried 22-16 ✓ 21-15

"That the term 'immediate requirements' in the text of
the Party Resolution of 1967 with reference to the
Deposit Account shall be considered to be approximately
1/10th of the preceding year's annual expenditure".
Carried 21-17 ✓ 14

"That in the opinion of this Conference the questioning
of applicants for membership of Central Branch by means of
a printed Questionnaire shall be regarded as a last resort
and shall be used only where it is impracticable for the
applicants to visit or be visited by members to interview
them, and that the Central Branch Examination Committee
be instructed to act accordingly".
Carried 31-8 ✓

"This Conference endorses the 1974 E.C.'s action in
appointing an ad hoc committee at its 27th Meeting of
2nd July, 1974".
Carried 20-11 ✓

"This Conference endorses the 1974 E.C.'s action in
appointing an ad hoc committee at its 31st Meeting on
30th July, 1974".
Carried 20-11 ✓

"This Conference deplores the action of three Haringey
members in setting up a group of which the Party knew
nothing and to which Branch funds were transferred
without consulting the Branch as a whole, but notes that
the funds have been returned to the Branch and the group
disbanded".
Carried 22-7 ✓

"This Conference favours contesting By-Elections
especially in marginal Constituencies where a worth-
while campaign can be organised".
Carried 35-4 ✓

in
"This Conference endorses the statement on page 122 of
the July "S.S" that the S.P.G.B. 'takes no part in
supporting the interests of one section of workers
against one set of employers. We represent the
political interests of the working class as a whole.
This Conference agrees with the contents of the article
'A Pleading Capitalist' taken in its entirety."

"This Conference notes that the Haringey Branch resolution takes an isolated passage from the article in the July "S.S" and ignores accompanying passages including the following:

1. We represent the political interests of the working class as a whole.
2. We are opposed to capitalism as a whole, high profits or low profits, high wages or low wages. Unfortunately it is the belief of many individual workers that the most positive step they can take in life is to constantly struggle for higher wages. It is no end in itself, and while workers persist solely in such a struggle and ignore socialist ideas they help to perpetuate capitalism.

This Conference affirms that this has always been the Party's position". Carried 18-13 ✓

"This Conference rejects the opinion, expressed by nine members of the 71st E.C. at the E.C. Meeting of 19th February 1974, that the following statement conflicts with the Party's declared position on industrial and political action, viz "...the S.P.G.B. supports the democratic industrial action taken by the National Union of Mineworkers in its present dispute with the National Coal Board and urges that serious consideration be given to the need for the working class - that is, all those dependent upon wages or salaries - to organise politically for conversion into the common property of society, by democratic methods, of the means of production so that all things shall be produced for use, not profit". (Carried ~~17-13~~ 14-13)

"This Conference regrets that the Haringey motion is based on extracting an E.C. decision from its content, and fails to show that the Branch had ~~XXXXXXXX~~ asked the E.C. to communicate support for the miners to the N.U.M., the Press and television, and give it other publicity. Therefore, considering the Haringey proposal to the E.C. as a whole, this Conference endorses the E.C.'s action". 19-13

as Sub-Res: Carried 19-12 ✓
Carried 17-13 ✓

FLOOR RESOLUTIONS:

"This Conference recommends that a Constitution and Standing Orders for groups be drawn up by the E.C. for consideration by the Party, and that any proposed Constitution and Standing Orders for groups should be referred to the 1975 Delegate Meeting for consideration".

Carried 20-9 ✓

"That the E.C. be asked to make a special approach to Central Branch members urging them in the interest of the organisation generally to join the nearest Branch, and pointing out the advantages of this to themselves".

Carried 19-5 ✓

"This Conference recommends the E.C. to re-instate the questions on Race and Trade Unions to the Questionnaire for applicants to Central Branch".

Carried 29-nil ✓

"This Conference recommends that a re-appraisal of the Questionnaire for applicants to the Party be undertaken by the E.C. at the earliest possible date, and that this recommendation be considered by Conference, 1976".

Carried 26-4 ✓

"This Conference recommends that all Branch resolutions be reproduced in full in E.C. Minutes but a Branch Secretary's letter may be precisEd in E.C. Minutes. Branch resolutions shall be supported by votes for and against and the number of members present".

Carried 15-9 ✓

"This Conference is of the opinion that the E.C. has no power to ~~withdraw~~ any items submitted by a Branch and placed on the Final Agenda, and have in fact exceeded their authority in withdrawing the Mid.Herts. resolution".

Carried 25-nil. ✓

Asst.Gen.Sec.
1st April, 1975